

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please amend the abstract on page 29, from line 2 through 8 as follows:

Apparatus and methods for fitting mechanical parts to minimize prevent free play are described. ~~Additionally, a design for an~~ An apparatus having a piston, ~~which restrains~~ is designed so as to restrain the piston before actuation, and ~~which allows so as to allow~~ the piston to gain momentum before striking an object, ~~is detailed~~. The described apparatus are applicable to devices involving shearable elements. An embodiment of the invention ~~[[as]]~~ relates to a pyrotechnically activated valve incorporating such features to minimize free play in conjunction with such features so as to restrain the piston and also allow the piston to gain momentum ~~is described~~.